

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 123**  
**Asked on 5 March 2014**

MR KRAUSE asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the previous Labor government's decision to close down maternity services across Queensland—

Is the can-do government's record investment in health resulting in maternity services being re-opened?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Beaudesert for his question.

I can confirm that pregnant women and their families have increasing choices and access to quality and safe maternity services. The commitment to provide maternity services at the Beaudesert Hospital was achieved four months ahead of the planned schedule and I am advised that at least four babies have been born at the facility in recent weeks. I was present at the official opening of the reintroduced service at Beaudesert and was delighted to be able to hear first-hand from some of the women who recently gave birth there.

Beaudesert is the first community where previously discontinued maternity services were reintroduced successfully in a model of care which is appropriate and sustainable for the local community.

Work is currently underway to develop the business case and service model to provide a local service to pregnant women in Cooktown, which I am confident will provide improved services to that community.

Queensland is leading the way nationally in relation to providing choice of maternity provider and range of service models. The most recent figures available show that of the 209 eligible midwives in Australia, 90 (43%) are based in Queensland. Many of these eligible midwives are providing continuity of care services as private practice midwives, responding to the expectations that women rightly have to be cared for by a health care professional they know.

The provision of maternity services is complex and understandably often requires specific approaches depending on the geographical location. The example of Beaudesert demonstrates that where there is a need for local maternity services and a safe, sustainable model of care can be implemented, we will support Hospital and Health Services to do so.